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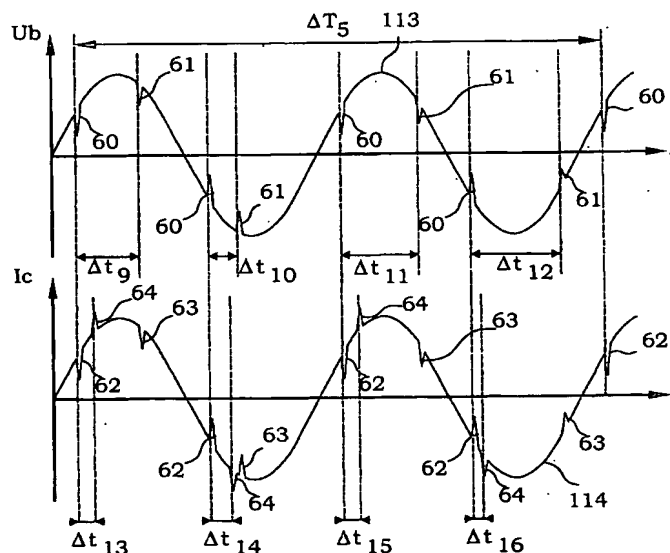
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(54) Title: COMMON FIELD BUS FOR DATA AND ENERGY TRANSFER



(57) Abstract: Data communication in an electrical system uses the time difference between two successive current or voltage pulses to represent different data values. The time differences (Δt_9 - Δt_{16}) can assume more than two different predetermined values, and thereby each pulse can represent more than one data bit. A central unit transfers data to a number of nodes by modulating voltage pulses onto a base voltage supplying power to the nodes. The time difference (Δt_9 - Δt_{12}) between successive voltage pulses represents a data value. The nodes transfer data back to the central unit using current pulses, whereby the time difference (Δt_{13} - Δt_{16}) between the latest voltage pulse and the current pulse represents the data sent to the central unit. Data from two or more nodes are possible to transfer simultaneously without disturbing each other. The base voltage on the bus can be AC or DC.

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